

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01982 211558Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

DHA-02 /068 W

-----211612Z 025448 /46

O R 211520Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5345

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IS, US, PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: RABIN'S REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS ON MIDDLE
EAST ISSUES

REF: TEL AVIV 1959

1. IN AN INTERVIEW ON RADIO ISRAEL MARCH 20 (FBIS-TA20212Y), RABIN SAID HE SAW POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ELEMENTS IN RECENT PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS. RABIN'S REMARKS IN THAT INTERVIEW AND THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER THE MARCH 20 CABINET MEETING (SEPTTEL) ILLUSTRATE THE EMERGING GOI RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT REMARKS AND THE CLARIFICATIONS OF THOSE REMARKS ON DEFENSIBLE BORDERS, THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND, NAD THE NATURE OF PEACE. RABIN DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN THE "PARTICULARLY POSITIVE" FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT ASSOCIATED THE U.S. WITH ISRAEL'S DEFINITION OF GENUINE PEACE AND THE "NEGATIVE" FACTS THAT ISRAEL AND THE U.S. HAVE GREAT DIFFERENCES ON WHERE ISRAEL'S BORDERS SHOULD BE AND ON HOW THE PALESTINIAN
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 01982 211558Z

PORBLEM SHOULD BE RESOLVED. HE TOLD THE ISRAELI PUBLIC THAT IT MUST BE PREPARED FOR A STRUGGLE TO WIN OVER AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC OPINOON ON THESE TWO KEY ISSUES. HE REITERATED THAT THE ONLY MEETING ISRAEL WILL HAVE WITH THE PLO IS ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

2. RABIN ADOPTED A VERY FRANK TONE WHEN SPEAKING OF

U.S.-ISRAEL DIFFERENCES. "I WILL NOT CONCEAL IT, NONE OF THE (U.S.) ADMINISTRATIONS IN THE PAST HAS BEEN CLOSE TO OUR VIEW ON THESE ISSUES, WHICH WE COULD IGNORE WHEN DEALING WITH INTERIM SETTLEMENTS. WHEN ONE REFERS TO COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT AND PEACE, HOWEVER, WE MUST DEAL WITH THESE PROBLEMS."

3. COMMENT: SOME ISRAELIS HAVE RECENTLY IMPRESSED ON US THAT U.S. "PRESSURE" ON ISRAEL PRIOR TO THE MAY ELECTIONS COULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF INCREASING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE RIGHTIST PARTIES AND OF CAUSING THE LABOR PARTY ITSELF TO BECOME MORE "HAWKISH." ON THE OTHER HAND, OTHERS WHO ARE CONVINCED THAT AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT IS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME BELIEVE THAT GROWING U.S. AWARENESS OF THIS IMPOSSIBILITY WILL TEND TO PUSH PRESENT DIFFERENCES OVER BORDERS AND TERRITORIES INTO THE BACKGROUND. THEY SEE A PARALLES BETWEEN PRESENT ADMINISTRATION THINKING AND POSITIONS FAVORING OVERALL SETTLEMENT IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION, CULMINATING IN THE ROGER PLAN OF 1969, WHICH GRADUALLY DISSIPATED.

4. BY PUTTING U.S.-ISRAELI DIFFERENCES IN "HISTORICAL" PERSPECTIVE, RABIN APPEARS TO BE DOWN-PLAYING HIS REPUTATION FOR BEING AN EXPERT WITH THE AMERICANS AND THE ONE WHO CAN MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND (AND AGREE WITH) THE ISRAELI POSITION.
DUNNIGAN

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